

demeanor reflected the burdens of his lonely journey as the leader of a “blundering and sinful” people.

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, to Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, two uneducated farmers, in a one-room log cabin on the 348-acre Sinking Spring Farm, in southeast Hardin County, Kentucky. Lincoln began his political career in 1832, at age 23, with an unsuccessful campaign for the Illinois General Assembly, as a member of the Whig Party.

Lincoln was a true opponent of injustice. In 1837, he made his first protest against slavery in the Illinois House, stating that the institution was “founded on both injustice and bad policy.”

Opposed to the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act, Lincoln spoke to a crowd in Peoria, Illinois, on October 16, 1854, outlining the moral, political and economic arguments against slavery that he would continue to uphold throughout his career.

His “Western” origins also appealed to the newer states: other contenders, especially those with more governmental experience, had acquired enemies within the party and were weak in the critical western states, while Lincoln was perceived as a moderate who could win the West.

On November 6, 1860, Lincoln was elected as the 16th President of the United States. In his First Inaugural Address, Lincoln declared, “I hold that in contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution the Union of these States is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments,” arguing further that the purpose of the United States Constitution was “to form a more perfect union.”

Lincoln possessed a keen understanding of strategic points and understood the importance of defeating the enemy’s army, rather than simply capturing cities. He had, however, limited success in motivating his commanders to adopt his strategies until late 1863, when he found a man who shared his vision of the war in Ulysses S. Grant. Only then could he insist on using African American troops and relentlessly pursue a series of coordinated offensives in multiple theaters.

Throughout the war, Lincoln showed a keen curiosity with the military campaigns. He spent hours at the War Department telegraph office, reading dispatches from his generals. He visited battle sites frequently, and seemed fascinated by scenes of war.

The Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in territories not already under Union control. Lincoln later said: “I never, in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right, than I do in signing this paper.”

As the war was drawing to a close, Lincoln became the first American president to be assassinated. On April 14, 1865, as a lone bodyguard wandered, and Lincoln sat in his state box, John Wilkes Booth crept up behind the President and fired a single fatal shot into the President. However, his triumphs live on far past this date.

In 1982, forty-nine historians and political scientists were asked by the Chicago Tribune to rate all the Presidents through Jimmy Carter in five categories: leadership qualities, accomplishments/crisis management, political skills, appointments, and character/integrity. At the top of the list stood Abraham Lincoln. The judgment of historians and the public tells us that Abraham Lincoln was the nation’s greatest President by every measure applied.

Because he was committed to preserving the Union and thus vindicating democracy no matter what the consequences to himself, the Union was indeed saved. Because he understood that ending slavery required patience, careful timing, shrewd calculations, and an iron resolve, slavery was indeed killed. Lincoln managed in the process of saving the Union and killing slavery to define the creation of a more perfect Union in terms of liberty and economic equality that rallied the citizenry behind him. Because he understood that victory in both great causes depended upon purposeful and visionary presidential leadership as well as the exercise of politically acceptable means, he left as his legacy a United States that was both whole and free. His great achievement, historians tell us, was his ability to energize and mobilize the nation by appealing to its best ideals while acting “with malice towards none” in the pursuit of a more perfect, more just, and more enduring Union.

Mr. Speaker, President Lincoln has paved the way for people of color such as me to serve in Congress and represent the people of the 18th District of Texas proudly. He has been a trailblazer, opening the door for our first African American President, President Barack Obama.

This year, we celebrate the life of President Abraham Lincoln. He has given America many victories. Importantly, his presidency opened the door to ensure that all Americans would be assured their constitutional freedoms and that all Americans would enjoy the triumph against oppression and injustice. President Lincoln has lit the candle, let us today continue to carry it and make sure that it will never go out.

One hundred and forty six years after the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln’s words continue to inspire people and governments not only in America, but throughout the world. In 1958, France adopted the constitution of its’ fifth—and current—republic. Under Title 1, Section 2, the constitution states that “the principle of the Republic shall be: government of the people, by the people and for the people.” This is one of many examples of other nations viewing our great country as a beacon of democracy.

I thank my colleague, Rep. TODD PLATTS, of Pennsylvania, for introducing this important legislation, to ensure that we celebrate, treasure and recognize the impact of President Abraham Lincoln’s most famous speech and I urge my colleagues to honor President Lincoln not only by joining me in supporting this resolution, but also by promoting the reading and examining of this speech on November 19th.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 736.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the

Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o’clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HEINRICH) at 6 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1168, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 291, by the yeas and nays;

Senate 509, by the yeas and nays.

Proceedings on remaining postponed questions will resume later in the week.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

VETERANS RETRAINING ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1168, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1168, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 356, nays 0, not voting 76, as follows:

[Roll No. 832]

YEAS—356

Aderholt	Baca	Bean
Adler (NJ)	Bachmann	Berkley
Akin	Bachus	Berman
Alexander	Baird	Berry
Altmire	Baldwin	Biggert
Andrews	Barrow	Bilbray
Arcuri	Bartlett	Bilirakis
Austria	Barton (TX)	Bishop (GA)

Bishop (NY)	Gohmert	McIntyre	Smith (TX)	Tonko	Welch	Calvert	Hodes	Napolitano
Bishop (UT)	Gonzalez	McKeon	Snyder	Towns	Westmoreland	Camp	Holt	Neugebauer
Blackburn	Goodlatte	McMahon	Space	Tsongas	Whitfield	Campbell	Honda	Nye
Blunt	Graves	McNerney	Speier	Turner	Wilson (OH)	Cantor	Hoyer	Oberstar
Bocieri	Grayson	Meek (FL)	Stearns	Upton	Wilson (SC)	Cao	Hunter	Obey
Boehner	Green, Al	Melancon	Sullivan	Van Hollen	Wittman	Capito	Inglis	Olson
Bono Mack	Green, Gene	Mica	Sutton	Visclosky	Wolf	Capps	Inslee	Oliver
Boozman	Griffith	Michaud	Tanner	Walden	Woolsey	Cardoza	Israel	Ortiz
Boswell	Guthrie	Miller (FL)	Terry	Walz	Wu	Carnahan	Issa	Pastor (AZ)
Boucher	Hall (TX)	Miller (MI)	Thompson (MS)	Wasserman	Yarmuth	Carson (IN)	Jackson (IL)	Paul
Boustany	Halvorson	Miller (NC)	Thompson (PA)	Schultz	Young (AK)	Carter	Jackson-Lee	Paulsen
Boyd	Hare	Miller, Gary	Thornberry	Watson	Young (FL)	Castle	(TX)	Pence
Braley (IA)	Harman	Miller, George	Tierney	Watt		Castor (FL)	Jenkins	Perlmutter
Bright	Harper	Minnick	Titus	Waxman		Chaffetz	Johnson (GA)	Perriello
Brown (SC)	Hastings (FL)	Mitchell				Chandler	Johnson, E. B.	Peters
Brown-Waite,	Heinrich	Mollohan				Childers	Johnson, Sam	Peterson
Ginny	Heller	Moore (KS)	Abercrombie	Grijalva	Payne	Chu	Jones	Petri
Buchanan	Hensarling	Moore (WI)	Ackerman	Gutierrez	Poe (TX)	Clay	Jordan (OH)	Pingree (ME)
Burgess	Herger	Moran (KS)	Barrett (SC)	Hall (NY)	Rush	Cleaver	Kagen	Pitts
Burton (IN)	Hereth Sandlin	Moran (VA)	Becerra	Hastings (WA)	Ryan (OH)	Clyburn	Kaptur	Platts
Butterfield	Higgins	Murphy (CT)	Blumenauer	Himes	Salazar	Coble	Kennedy	Polis (CO)
Buyer	Hill	Murphy (NY)	Bonner	Hinche	Sarbanes	Coffman (CO)	Kildee	Pomeroy
Calvert	Hinojosa	Murphy, Tim	Boren	Hoekstra	Schock	Cohen	Kilpatrick (MI)	Posey
Camp	Hirono	Murtha	Brady (PA)	Holden	Shimkus	Cole	Kilroy	Price (GA)
Campbell	Hodes	Myrick	Brady (TX)	Johnson (IL)	Shuster	Conaway	King (IA)	Price (NC)
Cantor	Holt	Nadler (NY)	Broun (GA)	Kind	Sires	Connolly (VA)	Kingston	Putnam
Cao	Honda	Napolitano	Brown, Corrine	King (NY)	Smith (WA)	Cooper	Kirk	Quigley
Capito	Hoyer	Neugebauer	Capuano	Lamborn	Souder	Costa	Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Radanovich
Capps	Hunter	Nye	Carney	Linder	Spratt	Costello	Kissell	Rahall
Cardoza	Inglis	Oberstar	Clarke	Lipinski	Stark	Courtney	Klein (FL)	Rehberg
Carnahan	Inslee	Obey	Conyers	Lucas	Stupak	Crowley	Kline (MN)	Reichert
Carson (IN)	Israel	Olson	Crenshaw	Maloney	Taylor	Cuellar	Kosmas	Reyes
Carter	Issa	Ortiz	Davis (AL)	McCaul	Teague	Culberson	Kratovil	Richardson
Cassidy	Jackson (IL)	Pastor (AZ)	Davis (IL)	McMorris	Thompson (CA)	Cummings	Kucinich	Rodriguez
Castle	Jackson-Lee	Paul	Davis (TN)	Rodgers		Dahlkemper	Lance	Roe (TN)
Castor (FL)	(TX)	Paulsen	Deal (GA)	Meeks (NY)	Tiahrt	Davis (CA)	Langevin	Rogers (AL)
Chaffetz	Jenkins	Pence	DeFazio	Murphy, Patrick	Tiberi	Davis (KY)	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (KY)
Chandler	Johnson (GA)	Perlmutter	Doyle	Neal (MA)	Velázquez	DeGette	Larson (CT)	Rogers (MI)
Childers	Johnson, E. B.	Perriello	Gerlach	Nunes	Wamp	Delahunt	Latham	Rohrabacher
Chu	Johnson, Sam	Peters	Gingrey (GA)	Olver	Waters	DeLauro	LaTourette	Rooney
Clay	Jones	Peterson	Gordon (TN)	Pallone	Weiner	Dent	Latta	Ros-Lehtinen
Cleaver	Jordan (OH)	Petri	Granger	Pascrell	Wexler	Diaz-Balart, L.	Lee (CA)	Roskam
Clyburn	Kagen	Pingree (ME)				Diaz-Balart, M.	Lee (NY)	Ross
Coble	Kanjorski	Pitts				Dicks	Levin	Rothman (NJ)
Coffman (CO)	Kaptur	Platts				Dingell	Lewis (CA)	Roybal-Allard
Cohen	Kennedy	Polis (CO)				Doggett	Lewis (GA)	Royce
Cole	Kildee	Pomeroy				Donnelly (IN)	LoBiondo	Ruppersberger
Conaway	Kilpatrick (MI)	Posey				Dreier	Loeback	Ryan (WI)
Connolly (VA)	Kilroy	Price (GA)				Driehaus	Lofgren, Zoe	Sánchez, Linda
Cooper	King (IA)	Price (NC)				Duncan	Lowey	T.
Costa	Kingston	Putnam				Edwards (MD)	Luetkemeyer	Sanchez, Loretta
Costello	Kirk	Quigley				Edwards (TX)	Luján	Scalise
Courtney	Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Radanovich				Ehlers	Lummis	Schakowsky
Crowley	Kissell	Rahall				Ellison	Lungren, Daniel	Schauer
Cuellar	Klein (FL)	Rangel				Emerson	E.	Schiff
Culberson	Kline (MN)	Rehberg				Engel	Lynch	Schmidt
Cummings	Kosmas	Reichert				Eshoo	Mack	Schrader
Dahlkemper	Kratovil	Reyes				Etheridge	Maffei	Schwartz
Davis (CA)	Kucinich	Richardson				Fallin	Manzullo	Scott (GA)
Davis (KY)	Lance	Rodriguez				Farr	Marchant	Scott (VA)
DeGette	Langevin	Roe (TN)				Fattah	Markey (CO)	Sensenbrenner
Delahunt	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (AL)				Filner	Markey (MA)	Serrano
DeLauro	Larson (CT)	Rogers (KY)				Flake	Marshall	Sessions
Dent	Latham	Rogers (MI)				Fleming	Massa	Sestak
Diaz-Balart, L.	LaTourette	Rohrabacher				Forbes	Matheson	Shadegg
Diaz-Balart, M.	Latta	Rooney				Fortenberry	Matsui	Shea-Porter
Dicks	Lee (CA)	Ros-Lehtinen				Foster	McCarthy (CA)	Sherman
Dingell	Lee (NY)	Roskam				Fox	McCarthy (NY)	Shuler
Doggett	Levin	Ross				Frank (MA)	McClintock	Simpson
Donnelly (IN)	Lewis (CA)	Rothman (NJ)				Franks (AZ)	McCollum	Skelton
Dreier	Lewis (GA)	Roybal-Allard				Frelinghuysen	McCotter	Slaughter
Driehaus	LoBiondo	Royce				Fudge	McDermott	Smith (NE)
Duncan	Loeback	Ruppersberger				Gallegly	McGovern	Smith (NJ)
Edwards (MD)	Lofgren, Zoe	Ryan (WI)				Garrett (NJ)	McHenry	Smith (TX)
Edwards (TX)	Lowey	Sánchez, Linda				Giffords	McIntyre	Snyder
Ehlers	Luetkemeyer	T.				Gohmert	McKeon	Space
Ellison	Luján	Sanchez, Loretta				Gonzalez	McMahon	Speier
Ellsworth	Lummis	Scalise				Goodlatte	McNerney	Stearns
Emerson	Lungren, Daniel	Schakowsky				Graves	Meek (FL)	Sullivan
Engel	E.	Schauer				Grayson	Melancon	Sutton
Eshoo	Lynch	Schiff				Green, Al	Mica	Tanner
Etheridge	Mack	Schmidt				Green, Gene	Michaud	Terry
Fallin	Maffei	Schrader				Griffith	Miller (FL)	Thompson (MS)
Farr	Manzullo	Schwartz				Guthrie	Miller (MI)	Thompson (PA)
Fattah	Marchant	Scott (GA)				Hall (TX)	Miller (NC)	Thornberry
Filner	Markey (CO)	Scott (VA)				Halvorson	Miller, Gary	Tierney
Flake	Markey (MA)	Sensenbrenner				Hare	Miller, George	Titus
Fleming	Marshall	Serrano				Harman	Minnick	Tonko
Forbes	Massa	Sessions				Harper	Mitchell	Towns
Fortenberry	Matheson	Sestak				Hastings (FL)	Mollohan	Tsongas
Foster	Matsui	Shadegg				Heinrich	Moore (KS)	Turner
Fox	McCarthy (CA)	Shea-Porter				Heller	Moore (WI)	Upton
Frank (MA)	McCarthy (NY)	Sherman				Hensarling	Moran (KS)	Van Hollen
Franks (AZ)	McClintock	Shuler				Herger	Murphy (CT)	Visclosky
Frelinghuysen	McCollum	Simpson				Hereth Sandlin	Murphy (NY)	Walden
Fudge	McCotter	Skelton				Higgins	Murphy, Tim	Walz
Gallegly	McDermott	Slaughter				Hill	Murtha	Wasserman
Garrett (NJ)	McGovern	Smith (NE)				Hinojosa	Myrick	Schultz
Giffords	McHenry	Smith (NJ)				Hirono	Nadler (NY)	Watson

NOT VOTING—76

□ 1901

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF ASSISTANCE DOGS IN HELPING WOUNDED VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 291, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res 291.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 351, nays 0, not voting 81, as follows:

[Roll No. 833]

YEAS—351

Aderholt	Barton (TX)	Bono Mack
Adler (NJ)	Bean	Boozman
Akin	Berkley	Boswell
Alexander	Berman	Boucher
Altmire	Berry	Boustany
Andrews	Biggert	Boyd
Arcuri	Bilbray	Braley (IA)
Austria	Bilirakis	Bright
Baca	Bishop (GA)	Brown (SC)
Bachmann	Bishop (NY)	Brown-Waite,
Bachus	Bishop (UT)	Ginny
Baird	Blackburn	Burgess
Baldwin	Blunt	Burton (IN)
Barrow	Bocieri	Butterfield
Bartlett	Boehner	Buyer